



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE **February 11, 2009**

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House Bill 5086 - An Act Concerning the Connecticut Medical Examining Board

The Department of Public Health opposes House Bill 5086.

- This bill would revise the appointment process for members of the Connecticut Medical Examining Board, require the board to complete investigations against licensed physicians and physician assistants and take appropriate action not later than six months after the filing of a complaint, and require the board to contact the Chief State's Attorney if it appears that an individual currently or formerly under investigation violated state criminal statutes.
- **The Connecticut Medical Examining Board does not investigate complaints concerning licensed physicians and physician assistants. Such activities fall within the purview of the Department of Public Health.**
- If the Department finds probable cause to issue charges against a licensee, such charges would be heard before the Board.
- Although the Department strives to conclude the complaint investigation process within six months of opening an investigation, many factors, including limited resources and obtaining confidential medical records, contribute to longer time frames.
- The Connecticut Medical Examining Board is comprised of individuals who volunteer their service to the State of Connecticut.
- If this bill moves forward, **significant additional resources** would be necessary for the Department and the Board to comply with a statutory mandate to complete an investigation and adjudicate a case within six months after a complaint is filed.
- The Department of Public Health currently notifies the Chief State's Attorney's Office if it appears that an individual currently or formerly under investigation has violated state criminal statutes.
- The Department does not support the bill at this time, as the Governor's budget does not provide resources for this purpose.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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